

Building your own sounds ...

By Dorothy Stowe

Deseret News dance writer

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Would you like a tubelodious around the house, to plink at your leisure? Or perhaps an amadinda, or agogo bells, or a balimbafon? These exotic musical instruments exist, but don't rush down to your friendly neighborhood dealer to buy one; they are custom items, and you'll have to make your own.

The how-to-do for these and some 45 other instruments is contained in "Sound Designs, a handbook of musical instrument building," by Jon Scoville and Reinhold Banek.

As co-artistic director of the Tandy Beal Dance Company, Scoville regularly devises and arranges musical scores for Tandy's choreographies. He took a break from his duties teaching accompaniment for dancers at the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company's Move It workshop (now in progress at the University of Utah) to talk about the fascinating art of instrument construction as he has practiced it.

In the foreword, Scoville recommends his book not only to "parents, teachers, woodworkers, musicians, craftspeople and modern dancers," but to "people who hate music but love to build things . . . theaters in need of sound effects . . . feminists, masculinists, Buddhists or Presbyterians . . . oil executives with empty 55-gallon drums, common folk tired of petroleum politics . . ." in short, to the whole human race.

One charm of the book is its lively thrusts of humor and the chatty style in which it is written, as if Scoville were standing at your elbow talking you through the whole process. Along with the jokes he includes precautionary injunctions from one who has cut his own fingers or risked injury from explosions or shards of metal, and knows where the pitfalls lie.

Scoville's book deals mostly with percussion instruments, since wind instruments require a whole different sort of theory; but within the range of objects to be struck, there is great variety.

In order to strike you need mallets, which can be

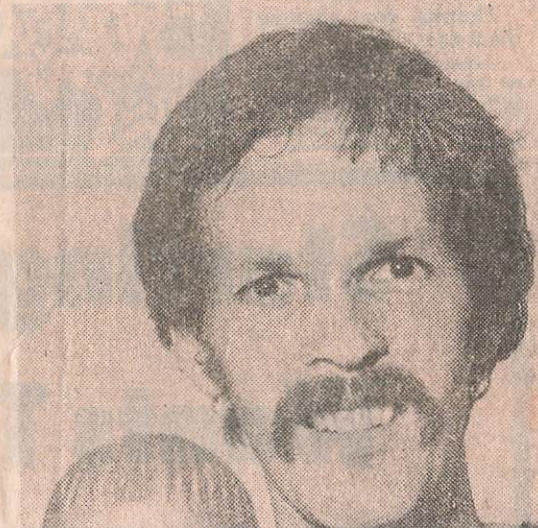


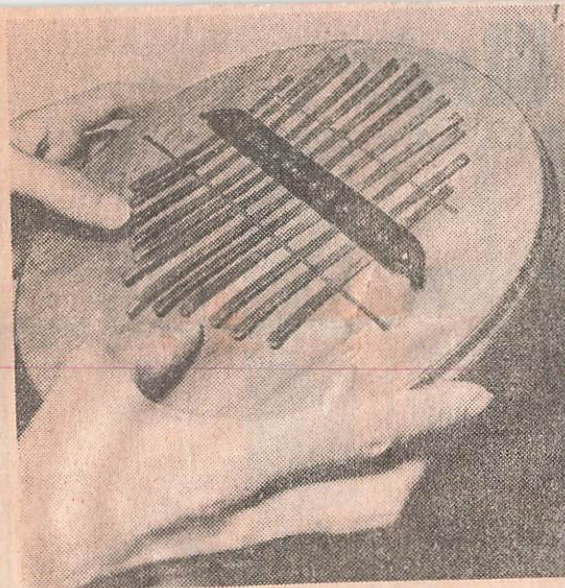
The instrument above is a balimbafon, tuned tube drums of plastic pipe, which have a mellow, resonant sound

quite expensive. Scoville explains how to make them with dowels, wooden balls and felt; or for big bongers, try re-working the handles of tired baseball bats. For the knobs, nothing works better than those little bouncy plastic super balls.

Part of the fun in making instruments is exercising your ingenuity to improvise from unconventional materials, thus saving many dollars. Scoville frequents garage sales and flea markets with his sensors out, accumulating and storing bits of flotsam with potential, such as pots and pans, metal lids and rods, irrigation and conduit pipe, hardwood objects for dismantling, electric pull chains and beads.

"The next best source of supplies and inspiration is a good, sprawling salvage yard," he said. "In a few hours one day poking through old cars, scrap metal and junked machinery, we found aluminum for chimes, disc blades for gongs and bases, universal joint housings for cup gongs, oxygen tanks for big bells, fire extinguisher tanks for small bells, and steel





Thumb piano is made from wood, a pan lid and pounded metal keys.

rods for triangles, also hanks of old chain for hanging heavy bells." Nor should one ignore the possibilities of throw-away items like cardboard tubing for carpet rolls.

Besides the tubelodious (a marimba with bars of conduit tubing over plastic resonators), the amadinda (an unresonated African xylophone with five blocks tuned to the pentatonic scale), the agogo bells (made from steel from a Volkswagen fender) and the balimbafon (tuned drums of plastic pipe), what else has Scoville made?

There are slit drums and wood blocks of walnut and rosewood, and temple blocks of solid maple. "While hardwoods are best, you can use soft woods, but the tone will be more mute," he explained. "Redwood is a friendly wood — easy to work, beautiful in appearance and tone, and plentiful. Fruitwoods are also good."

The book shows redwood marimbas and an Aeolian harp-zither to hang in the wind; cowbells and bell circles, little finger cymbals for belly dancers and bell clusters made from artillery shell casings or circular saw blades. There are cup gongs which ring long and mysteriously after a tap, aluminum dimple gongs, and big granddaddy gongs with superb tone.

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Instead of using gourds to create Brazilian maracas, Jon Scoville, left, improvised with a couple of toilet tank floats filled with some BB shot.

Sheltered Workshop Planned for School

AMERICAN FORK — Plans for a sheltered workshop and training center at the Utah State Training School are currently in the development stage. The vocational rehabilitation center at the training school will be one of four to be constructed in Utah, with others planned at the Utah State Hospital in Provo, the State Industrial School in Ogden, and at Salt Lake City. The Salt Lake center will be a work evaluation and work adjustment center for youths in the Salt Lake area.

The vocational rehabilitation centers at the Utah State Hospital and the State Industrial School are in the advanced stages of planning, with cost of the two centers expected to total \$561,000. Federal funds in the amount of \$420,759 have been approved for the first two centers, with \$140,250 to be supplied by the state on a matching fund basis.

The emphasis at the rehabilitation centers will be on work evaluation and work adjustment, with equipment, machines and a trained vocational staff to assist the 500 young people at Ogden and Provo to improve their vocational outlook.

Charles Le Baron, rehabilitation officer at the Utah State Training School from the State Office of Rehabilitation Service,

attended meetings this week with two national experts in the field of vocational rehabilitation. Dr. Paul Hoffman, Stout State University, Menomonie, Wis., and Morris Grummer, executive director of Jewish Vocational Service, Los Angeles, met with Utah rehabilitation officials on a consulting basis Thursday and Friday. Dr. Vaughan L. Hall, executive director of the Office of Rehabilitation Services, conducted the consultations.

Mr. LeBaron initiated a pilot program of vocational rehabilitation for residents of Utah State Training School last fall, which demonstrated the ability for retarded workers to handle various tools, follow instructions and complete specific job assignments. In the pilot study, eight training students refinished a number of desks and chairs for Alpine School District under a work training project taught by Joe Bond, instructor of industrial arts at the American Fork Junior High School.

Details on the sheltered workshop and training center at the Utah State Training School are expected to be announced in from four to six weeks, according to Mr. Le Baron.



SUNNY

and warmer today. High expected near 50, low tonight high 20s. Probability of precipitation, near zero.

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Peking Radio monitored in Tokyo said there was "bloodshed" in the latest incident and reported an "urgent and strong protest" had been lodged with the Soviet Union.

In a broadcast heard in Tokyo early Sunday, the New China News Agency said China is building up its forces on Chen Pao Island to strike back at "any new provocations by the Soviet revisionists."

The agency said Chinese military commanders in the area have been meeting during the past several days to prepare

ary fighters who "will crush them to pieces."

Soviet sources said Saturday's fight lasted five hours and began in the early morning hours when a battalion-strong Chinese force attacked under cover of heavy artillery and mortar fire from the Manchurian bank of the Usurri.

...there were killed and wounded as a result," Tass said. "Through measures adopted, the provocateurs were expelled from the island. This latest impudent armed provocation, staged by the Chinese authorities, is fraught with

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UPI TELEPHOTO

Ocean To Ocean At 80 yrs.

Lyman U. Frain Sr., 80, pedaled his bike over the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Monday, completing a 3,100-mile bike ride from New York City. He started May 10. "I just wanted to prove an old guy still had something left," he said. His worst day, he recalled, was the ride across the salt flats from Salt Lake City to Wendover. "I had to peddle 90 miles that day in the heat because there was no place to stop for water, food or shade. I spent the next day resting."

Look Through To

SECRET NEWS

Salt Lake Telegram

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